Proposal to repeal Jammu and Kashmir Resettlement Act, 1982

3107. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to persuade the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir to repeal the Jammu and Kashmir Resettlement Act, 1982;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government on the subject;

(c) the response received from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) the possible impact on the security and political fronts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) All aspects of the situation arising out of the enactment of the J and K Resettlement Act 1982 are being examined.

General amnesty to security forces

3108. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide relief in the form of general amnesty to the security forces in our country particularly in the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to provide general amnesty to the security forces in the country.

Immigration rackets

3109. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of immigration rackets busted by the Special Cell of the Ministry during the past 5 years;

(b) the steps, so far, taken to stop such rackets from mushrooming;

(c) whether Government have undertaken any study to know the *modus operandi* adopted by such rackets; and

(d) if so, the details of such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) There is no Special Cell in the Ministry of Home Affairs to combat immigration rackets. The forgeries detected by immigration officers in travel documents during the last five years is as follows:—

1996	1892
1997	2453
1998	2466
1999	1979
2000 (upto October)	1650

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. As such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been adivising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focussed attention to the improvement of administration of Criminal Justice System. Information relating to the busting of immigration rackets by the local police is not maintained centrally.

Improvements in the security features of Indian Passports and Visa stickers to minimize tampering are undertaken on a continuing basis. All immigration staff also exercise vigilance in this regard and are given special training and equipment to scrutinize travel documents to ascertain their genuineness. New security features in the passport are introduced from time to time to make them tamper proof.

(c) and (d) No formal study has been carried out by the Central Government. However, it has come to the notice of the Government that the *modus operandi* adopted by illegal immigrants traveling on forged passports includes departure from Kathmandu or smaller airports in India being used for international travel. Many countries including Cyprus, Malta and Thailand provide visa on arrival. Many illegal migrants prefer to proceed to these countries first and then target some other countries. A number of them also use complicated routes through several countries using a combination of land and air passage and purchasing documents along the way.